

# King Victor Emmanuel

Tells of the Sacrifices

Made by Italy in the War

THE representative of Le Matin to whom the King of Italy recently granted an interview describes the impression made upon him by King Emmanuel as one of goodness, earnestness, and simplicity. This was a man, he declares, who was acquainted with facts, not phrases, and whose clear thinking formed its estimate of things and of men. For 39 months, he affirms, the King has not failed to go up daily to the lines and to encourage his soldiers by his presence and his words.

The economic and moral condition of Austria-Hungary was naturally the subject with which he was most concerned, and he seemed, the writer declares, to be wonderfully well informed. He knew by report how things were inside the enemy countries and his own daily experience showed him that the physical and moral condition of the combatants was.

It must not be thought, the King said, that there was the same solidarity between the rear and the front in Teutonic countries as in the democratic nations. There was, on the



KING VICTOR EMMANUEL.

contrary, a barrier between them. The soldiers did not know what was going on in their towns and villages. They were subject to a severe discipline, which their leaders maintained harshly, and the only newspapers they read were those which were carefully selected and controlled. How, the King asked, could they share in the political turmoils of the interior?

In reply to a tribute as to the fighting of the Italian soldiers on the Piave, the King said that, indeed they had done well. The effort Italy had made deserved to be known, he added, for she had given her children freely in the war. King Victor Emmanuel, declared there were no men of military age to be seen in the country, except those who were unfit for service; the fields were being tilled by women and children and men past military age. The class of 1900, the equivalent of the French class of 1920 had been in the line for months, he declared. They had, in fact, mobilized all their effectiveness without restrictions of any kind. Nor, said the King, had the financial effort been any smaller, without speaking of the industrial and economic efforts which the country has made in spite of the difficulties arising from the absence of raw materials needed for war manufactures.

These words of the King of Italy, the writer declares, contained truths which should be known by this nation, which had spontaneously entered a war which was not imposed upon her, had had to face sacrifices which had been doubled by the defection of Russia.

## Guns.

There is no known 75-centimetre gun. If there were, it would be more than 29 inches. The famous French 75-millimetre gun has a bore a little less in size than the American 3-inch field gun, being approximately 2.95275 inches; the German 77-millimetre is a little larger than the American, being approximately 3.03149 inches. French and American shells could be used in the German 77-millimetre guns, probably with little or no change, while German and American shells could not, probably, be used in the French 75's without remachining.

## A Famous "Nom de Plume."

It is probably quite new to most people that the nom de plume "Gyp," of the well-known French novelist, was taken from a Dickens' novel. Such is, however, the case. Gyp is the little dog Jip of David Copperfield, with the J changed into a G, so that the initial letter might be the same as that of the Christian name of Countess Sybille Gabrielle Marie Antoinette de Martel de Janville, the lady who is so well known to the French reading world as "Gyp."

## His Explanation.

"Before we were married," the English wife complained, "you always engaged a cab when you took me anywhere. Now you think the tram-car is good enough for me."  
"No, my darling," replied her husband, "I don't think the tram-car is good enough for you; it's because I'm so proud of you. In a cab you would be seen by nobody, while I can show you off to so many people by taking you in a tram-car."

## MURDERED FISHERFOLK.

How the Germans Made Dutch Orphans.

During the summer months Holland's fishing fleet suffered great losses through the persistent German attacks upon it. In spite of all protests these attacks continue on the dimmest of pretences. The Dutch shipping council, an official court of justice or inquiry into ship disasters, publishes the following account of how a Dutch lugger was sunk by a German submarine in such brutal manner that three fishermen were killed:

"As the fishermen were lowering the boat to leave their ship a shot from the German submarine struck the ship close to the spot where they were busy, killing three of their number. The submarine continued firing. The man who fired stood behind a shield and the shells were passed to him from the conning tower. Our boat was riddled with shot and quite leaky." "We stopped the holes as well as we could with the cork from a life belt and with bits of bacon — we always keep some bacon in our boat for eventualities. We kept on bailing out the water, using a boat belonging to one of our dead comrades for the purpose. Meanwhile we saw how our lugger was shot down; it sank straight down with masts upright. When the lugger was gone the submarine crew turned their attention to us; they looked at us through a periscope, then sailed away, leaving us to our fate. It was difficult to keep our leaky little craft afloat; we bailed and bailed for seven hours, when at last we saw another lugger and rowed toward it with all our might and were taken on board. The skipper of the lugger held a council with us as to what to do with the dead. In order to prove they had been shot, we thought it best to take them to Holland, so we salted the bodies and the lugger set sail for Ymuiden."

Several of the fishing boats were sunk because they had drifted a few yards into the "danger zone" — a zone which has been illegally prohibited by Germany. Other ships have been "spuriously" sunk, so no tales could be told of how and wherefore. In the cases where it is possible to compare the Dutch with the German stories they differ widely — for instance, some fishermen brought to Ymuiden after being picked up, relate that the Germans plundered their ship and even took the men's watches and clothing from them, and, evoked more, took away all provisions, so that the men in the open boat had nothing to eat and no covering, except the clothes they were wearing at the moment of the sinking of their ship — minus their oilskin coats, which were also "requisitioned" by the Germans. The German version of the same occurrence says that the fishermen were allowed ample time to collect their belongings and to stow provisions into the boat before the ship which they had left was sunk. It is for those who know something of German methods to make a choice from the two narratives.

Six months ago there were already over 2,000 orphans of fishermen murdered by the submarines in Holland, and a special fund was being raised to provide for them. By the recent outrages the number of orphans is steadily being increased, and the hatred against the ruthless slayers is ever growing among the fishing population of Holland.

## A Poor Scholar.

Parents who despair of their children may, says Outlook, find consolation in this story about Liebig, the famous chemist, from Prof. Swift's "Psychology and the Day's Work": On one occasion when the school director visited young Liebig's class and heard his wretched recitation, he told him that he was the plague of his teacher and the sorrow of his parents. What could he ever do? The boy replied that he was going to be a chemist. The director laughed uproariously. The boy's father finally withdrew him from school, because he could not keep up with his class. In his mature years Liebig said that the cause of his inability to do the class work was that his auditory memory was weak—he could retain little or nothing that he heard.

## Holds "All-Fours" Record.

A correspondent of Collier's who was under shell fire on Hill 212 in the battle of the Ourcq says: "I think it was the ninth or tenth shell that for the fraction of an instant fully convinced me that I was through. The explosion turned me quite over where I lay flat, all huddled up. At the end of forty-five or fifty minutes the captain decided that we might duck one at a time. We rolled out of the shell-hole on all fours for an old wall a hundred yards away. I don't know what the all-fours record for a hundred yards is, but I think I hold it."

## An Eccentric Genius.

In reminiscences of Lafcadio Hearn, by his wife, a Japanese, the following things that were disliked by the erratic genius are enumerated: "He disliked liars, abuse of the weak, Prince Albert coats, white shirts, the city of New York, and many other things." He had a love of the sea and swimming, of "lonely cemeteries," of ghost stories, of Martinique, and of such mundane things as beefsteak and plum pudding.

## Glorious Days.

Perhaps one of the most biting things the enemies of the Hohenzollerns in Germany are doing, at the present time, is the recalling of the Kaiser's remark, on the occasion of his accession, thirty years ago, "I will lead you into glorious days." It is pretty difficult for a people subsisting on quarter rations, and wearing paper-soled shoes, to imagine these days glorious. At all events, what they want now is some one to lead them out of the days Wilhelm led them into.

## Filched Province From Denmark

ALTHOUGH Lord Palmerston once said that only three people ever understood the Holstein-Schleswig question, one of them (the Prince Consort) being dead, another mad, while the third, the speaker, had forgotten it, there is some obligation upon the present generation to grapple with it, since Denmark has asked Germany that the matter be settled in accordance with the principle of self-determination. In other words, Denmark, from whom the province was filched by Bismarck, has an idea that it should be returned. If she had asked the Kaiser for his right eye in a cardboard box she would not have made a request that the Hohenzollern is more likely to accede to, for both the Kiel Canal and Heligoland come within the administrative limits of Schleswig-Holstein. But since the Kaiser is not likely to have any voice in the final disposition of the territory in question, his objection would have little weight, nor would the protest of Germany. Although Schleswig-Holstein was grabbed from Denmark by a means follows that the people of the two duchies would be willing to return there. The problem is by no means as simple as that presented by Alsace-Lorraine, though they are often compared.

A commercial traveller through the West, who has escaped the flu, his system being too crowded with alcohol to give the germs even the tiniest foothold, mentioned to us just this morning that he had seen bell boys in the C. P. R. hotels out there with their caps entirely off their heads and hanging from their ears, like pagan ornaments. He saw that in more than one of the C. P. R. hotels; and what the effect may be if the new practice is prevalent throughout the eighteen C. P. R. caravansaries, it is impossible to gauge.

Telegraph operators in the 15,000 offices of the C. P. R. Telegraph system have been affected by the new movement in hats. The workmen in the great Angus car shops at Montreal, and in the C. P. R. shops at Winnipeg and Calgary, show it, it is said, scarcely one piece of headgear that retains the old Shaughnessy style.

As might have been expected this was not accepted as a final settlement by the people most concerned, and then Bismarck took a hand. He needed Schleswig-Holstein in the great game he was playing to exalt Prussia and at the same time humble Austria, then the predominant partner in the Germanic confederation. He duped Austria into lending her support in the effort to wrest the duchies from Denmark, assuring her that the only thus would the democratic unrest that prevailed there be quenched before spreading further south. So he made war upon Denmark, and after a short campaign the duchies were detached, and the Danish rights in them ceded to the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria. The inhabitants of the conquered province were appeased with the promise of being permitted the right eventually to decide by vote their own future. This promise, it might be remarked, was never redeemed.

The next step in Bismarck's program was to use Schleswig-Holstein as a means of forcing a fight on Austria, and this was done by the King of Prussia, declaring at Bismarck's bidding that the duchies belong to him, and that Austria had no claim. Austria resented this bold-blooded swindle, and in 1866 the two plunders went to war. There followed the defeat of Austria and her expulsion from the German confederation. This left Prussia by far the strongest member of the partnership of German states, and was another step in the plan which was brought to full triumph when the King of Prussia was crowned Emperor of Germany at Versailles, after the war with France. It is plain enough that Germany has no moral claim on the duchies; it is also plain that a majority of the people most concerned would probably refuse to return to Denmark. It seems equally certain that what Holstein wants would not satisfy Schleswig. Some division of the duchies would appear to be the simplest solution, only the rights of the dwellers therein are to be considered. It seems likely, however, that in view of the importance to Germany—and to the rest of the world—of the Kiel Canal and Heligoland that the Allies may be compelled to make a settlement that first guards their own interests, and secondly, pleases the people of Schleswig-Holstein.

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## The Canadian Angle

AN amusing skit on the effect of the new C. P. R. president's hat appears in the Chatham "News"—this effect being produced, doubtless, by the law of suggestion. The hat of Mr. Beatty is said to be tilted at a rakish angle; and the moment that this was found to be the case, the mimicry of that hat became a sacred duty on the part of the employees, according to the story.

In the good old days of Baron Shaughnessy, says the writer, the brisk and businesslike boy who delivered our C. P. R. Jespachets used to march into the office with his natty blue cap set square across his noble brow.

That cap was a fixture there. We got used to it. It seemed part of the established order of things. One could as easily imagine the boy pushing it to one side or the other, as one could imagine a breeze on the Nile upsetting the great Pyramid.

One day last week we got a shock. Into our office tripped the youngster with his cap tilted rakishly over one ear.

"What's the matter, kid?" we enquired. "Getting the flu?" "Nope," and he brisped out again without troubling to explain. But we have just discovered the truth.

Baron Shaughnessy used to wear his hat square across his forehead. But the new president of the C. P. R.—its first Canadian-born president—Mr. E. W. Beatty, invariably carries his chapeau tilted at a rakish angle.

There are whispers going down the line that sedate firemen and brakemen to give the germs even the tiniest foothold, mentioned to us just this morning that he had seen bell boys in the C. P. R. hotels out there with their caps entirely off their heads and hanging from their ears, like pagan ornaments. He saw that in more than one of the C. P. R. hotels; and what the effect may be if the new practice is prevalent throughout the eighteen C. P. R. caravansaries, it is impossible to gauge.

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## Nero's Palace.

The golden house was the palace of Nero in ancient Rome, which occupied the valley between the Palatine and Esquiline, and connected the palaces of the Caesars with the gardens of Maecenas. It was built after the great fire of 64 A.D., and was so large that it contained porticos 2,800 feet long and inclosed a lake where the colosseum now stands. The forecourt contained a colossus of Nero 20 feet high.

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